

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OIC-02 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /061 W

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P R 012124Z APR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9729

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, GATT

SUBJECT: UN COMMON SYSTEM: GATT SALARY PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 62530

1. MISOFF CONVEYED SUBSTANCE PARA TWO REFTEL APRIL 1 TO UN SECT OFFICIAL. LATTER EXPLAINED THAT CCAQ AT MARCH MEETING BEGAN EXPLORATION OF POSSIBILITY THAT COST-OF-LIVING INDEX BE DIVORCED FROM EXCHANGE-RATE INDEX IN CALCULATION OF POST ADJUSTMENT. WORKING-LEVEL CCAQ PERSONNEL NOT TOO HOPEFUL THAT THIS PROCEDURE WILL BE PRACTICABLE, AND BELIEVE THAT, EVEN IF IT IS, NO ACTION POSSIBLE UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY UNGA.

2. FICSA HAS CABLED SYG REQUESTING PROMPT ACTION, AND SECT SOURCE EXPECTS MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT ACC MEETING IN ROME THIS WEEK. ACC MIGHT ASK CCAQ TO EXPEDITE ITS STUDY AND TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ICSC AT ITS FIRST MEETING IN NEW YORK BEGINNING MAY 19. TIMETABLE WOULD THEN INCLUDE RECOMMENDATION BY ICSC AT ITS AUGUST 1975 MEETING FOR PRESENTATION TO 30TH GA.

3. AS INDICATED ABOVE, KNOWLEDGABLE CCAQ STAFF MEMBERS ARE SKEPTICAL RE PROSPECTS FOR PROCEDURE DESCRIBED

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ABOVE. INSTEAD, THEY ARE CONSIDERING TEMPORARY "PATCHWORK"

SOLUTION, INVOLVING REDUCTION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POST ADJUSTMENTS FOR MARRIED AND SINGLE EMPLOYEES AT THE HIGHEST CLASSES OF POST ADJUSTMENT, WHICH WOULD BE APPLICABLE ONLY TO POSTS LIKE GENEVA.

4. SOURCE SAID LONG-TERM SOLUTION WOULD BE IN-DEPTH REVIEW BY ICSC, WHICH WOULD TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO COMPLETE.

5. PROPOSAL IN PARA TWO REFTEL HAS BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT REJECTED, BECAUSE: (A) IF APPLIED ONLY IN GENEVA, IT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO POLICY OBJECTIVE OF WORKING TOWARD WORLDWIDE UNIFORMITY OF SYSTEM; (B) IF DOLLAR CONTINUES DOWN, UN SYSTEM BUDGETS WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO EXCESSIVE RISK; AND (C) IF DOLLAR RISES VS SWISS FRANC (AS IT DID IN MARCH 1975), IT WOULD HURT EMPLOYEES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN01044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750113-0149
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750491/aaaadfox.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 62530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN COMMON SYSTEM: GATT SALARY PAYMENTS
TAGS: AORG, UN, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006